

Andrew Jackson to John Caldwell Calhoun, May 22, 1821, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY CALHOUN.

Montpelier, May 22, 1821.

Dear Sir, I had the pleasure to receive your much esteemed favour of the 8th ult,¹ on the 11th instant, and would have acknowledged it on its recpt, but I had a right hourly to expect information of the arival of Colo. Forbes at Pensacola, and had a wish to inform you that I was on my march to receive possession of the country ceded. It is with extreme regret I have to inform you that altho he reached cuba on the 22nd ult he has not arived at pensacola yet, and from his delay it is impossible for me to conjecture when he may. Mr. Thompson who accompanied him to the Havanna, and left him there on the 7th² reached me on the night of the 20th Via Orleans and expected to find him at Pensacola when he reached there. I am fearfull that the Governor Genl of Cuba has discovered in the Colo. too much of the swaviter et modo, and is practising upon him a little of the Spanish policy, procrastination and delay for purposes not calculated to promote our interest, but to gain time for his friends to introduce large quantities of merchandize, and africans. This delay is truly irksome, and will produce great inconvenience and expence to the united states by transporting the supplies for the Troops, first to their present stations and then to the places they are to occupy, which might have been avoided by a little promptness and [energy] displayed by Colo. Forbes. It is to be regretted that the duty assigned Colo. Forbes had not have been committed to Capt Reid, if it had we would have been in complete Possession of the country by this time—but as it is I fear delay will be experienced, and the occasion of it not result much to the dignity of our country. How Irksome my situation to be compelled to remain here with my arms Folded not able

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to prevent those illegal practices that from information is daily practicing on the coasts of Florida and to favour which causes this delay. But such is my instructions and I must submit to them.

1 See p. 46, *ante*.

2 "In the steamboat."

I have my D'r Sir read your letter with great pleasure, the principles you have laid down for your political guide through life will land you in a safe haven, and lead you to a compleat triumph over your Political enemies, and your country to safety and happiness. The course pursued by last congress is universely condemned, whilst your course, and report³ is approbated by nine tenths of the citizens of the country through which

3 Report, Dec. 12, 1820, *Am. St. Pap., Mil. Aff.*, II. 188, on reduction of the army, which was carried through by act of Mar. 2, 1821, against the desires of Calhoun and Jackson.

I have passed; indeed it is approved by all except those who, from Political and popular views have been with the majority, and finding themselves now in the minority cannot consistantly retreat.

Permit me to make to you a friendly sugestion. I say friendly for no man wishes you better than I do, or can have your future welfare more at heart than I have, as I believe your political welfare to be intimately connected with the welfare of our country. I would therefore sugest for your safety a change of adjutant Genl Parker.⁴ he I have no doubt may be a good man, but he lacks both talents and magnanimity. It was alone his report that gave to your envious political enemies, the least shadow of ground to attack you, it was his blunders, occasioned by his indolence and want of capacity that gave Floyd⁵ room for his indecorous attack. it was from Genl Parkers want of magnanimity, in not stepping forward acknowledging the error to be his own, stating your reliance on his performing his duty correctly, and the frequent calls made upon you, that you had not time to examine this report, and the error was to be ascribed to him not to you; this would have made the

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Doctor to have blushed for his attack. Genl Parker is a weak man, and your safety and ease require a man of capacity possessing high honourable feelings to fill that office, a man of magnanimity, industry and pride—you can find this charector in Colo. Gadsden.

4 Daniel Parker, made paymaster general June 1.

5 John Floyd, M. C. from Virginia 1817–1829: speech of Jan. 17, *Annals of Congress*, 18 Cong., 2 sess., cols. 891–901.

Before this reaches you our military relations will have ceased, but my breast will allways cherish with the most lively recollection, that friendly feeling toward you, that your honourable conduct towards me ever since you have been placed in the Department of war was well calculated to inspire. this feeling for you never will cease during life, and in every situation that you may be placed in through life my best wishes for your wellfare and happiness will accompany you. It will afford me great pleasure to write you when any thing occurs that I think may be either usefull or amusing to you. permit me through you to make one request for a mutual friend of us both. I should not trouble you was it not that I hold no correspondance with the Sec of the Treasury, and am fully aware how he uses his cunning, in the appointment of the officers in his department. his conduct to Major Pickens formerly of No. Carolina now of the state of allabama⁶ I am no stranger to. I have wrote to Mr. Monroe some time since asking for Doctor Brunaugh the office of receiver of public money in west Florida as soon as a land office is opened therin. I have reasons to believe Mr. Monroe will give the Doctor this appointment, unless the Sec of the Treasury in the erand of business should play the same game with the Doctor that he did with Major Pickens. my request therefore is that you will remind the President that Doctor Brunaugh has solicited this appointment and continues to be a candidate for it.

6 Israel Pickens, M. C. from North Carolina 1811–1817, register of the land office of Mississippi and Alabama, governor of Alabama 1821 to 1825, and U. S. senator in 1826. Dr. Bronaugh was not appointed; he died in 1822.

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I feel grateful to you for your friendly expressions toward me, and the interest you have taken for the preservation of my health—for which receive my gratefull acknowledgements with the assurance of my great respect friendship and Esteem, I am Sir

yr. most obdt. servt.